

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

September 14, 2023

Patrick Lechleitner
Acting Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th St SW
Washington, D.C. 20536

Dear Acting Director Lechleitner:

On October 21, 2022, and November 22, 2022, we wrote to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) regarding the death of Melvin Ariel Calero-Mendoza in ICE custody. Mr. Calero-Mendoza was detained at the Aurora Contract Detention Facility operated by the GEO Group in Aurora, Colorado.

Mr. Calero-Mendoza died on October 13, 2022. In your agency's response dated November 17, 2022, ICE confirmed that the ICE Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) initiated an independent review surrounding the incident beginning on October 14, 2022. This independent review was to include a facility tour, interviews with facility staff, and an assessment of Mr. Calero's medical and detention file and video surveillance footage related to the medical emergency.

The stated timeline for the review's completion was on or about April 11, 2023. This document, the Detainee Death Review Report, is now complete. It is our understanding that stakeholders within our constituency have submitted a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for records associated with Mr. Calero-Mendoza and that this request is several months past its estimated completion date.

We encourage you to cooperate with our community members pursuing ICE OPR's Detainee Death Review Report. We understand that ICE is inundated with FOIA requests and that significant time goes into these searches. However, we believe oversight and transparency of facilities operated by or for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is crucially important and we encourage you to remit this document as expeditiously as time allows.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

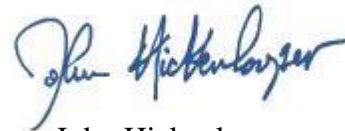
Sincerely,



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator